

AMAA

News

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Haigazian University Commencement 2003 (See story on page 8)

Steady Perseverance

Rev. Jirair M. Sogomian

“Tell me the weight of a snowflake,” a sparrow once asked a wild dove. “Nothing more than nothing” came the answer. “In that case, I must tell you a marvelous story,” the sparrow said. “I sat on the branch of a fir, close to its trunk, when it began to snow – not heavily, not in a raging blizzard, no, just like in a dream, without any violence. Since I didn’t have anything better to do, I counted the snowflakes setting on the twigs and needles of my branch. Their number was exactly 3,741, 952. When the next snowflake dropped unto the branch – nothing more than nothing – as you say, the branch broke off. Having said that the sparrow flew away. The dove, since Noah’s time an authority on the matter, thought about the story for a while and finally said to herself: “Perhaps there is only one person’s voice lacking, for peace to come about in the world.” (A race to Nowhere by Pax Christa)

The scenario has been the same in the mission field, as well as throughout the Holy Scriptures and history. Years of nothing next to nothing, until we would reap the results of the accumulative effort. Throughout history, missionaries labored in steady perseverance for long periods of time in various parts of the globe, until they witnessed any results.

In his Second Letter to Timothy, this is the stratagem Paul passes on to Timothy. With one eye on valuable tradition that gives stability to life and work and the other eye on Scripture as the richest source of that tradition, Paul gives to Timothy a solemn charge in the presence of God and the Christ, to continue the preaching of the Word in all seasons and on all occasions. *“Be urgent,”* he writes, *“press it home, convince, rebuke, exhort ... and do all this with unfailing patience.”* Be steady in spite of the fickleness of those who hear the Word, remain faithful even in the face of suffering and seeming failure, fulfill your ministry even when your work seems to be “nothing more than nothing.” For time is short and opportunities limited. So do your best and leave the rest in God’s hands ... for ultimately the process is determined by God, it is God who saves! And thank God for that!

The emphasis is the same in Jesus’ parable of The Widow and the Unjust Judge. The widow obtained what she wanted by her relentless pleading before the judge. The disciples who had been taught to pray for the coming of God’s kingdom, often, like many of us, grew weary, discouraged, and lost their enthusiasm and sense of calling. And so Jesus assures them that if an insensitive and hardened judge will hear the pleas of a helpless widow,

how much more can we trust a righteous and loving God to hear the prayers of those who day and night cry for vindication.

How easy it is for us, my friends, to grow weary, discouraged, and to lose our sense of mission in our pursuit of Christ’s kingdom. Unfaithfulness on the part of those who must witness the gospel and their forgetfulness that they are representatives of the Christ who in utter humility emptied himself, may lead us to discouragement and hopelessness. But both Jesus and Paul urge us to keep the faith and hold on to our hope. They urge us to keep praying and to tell the story day in and day out, to witness to the saving gospel of Christ not only by our words but also by our life example, until the day when “nothing more than nothing” will amount to everything.

Scheherazade was a beautiful young woman of Arabia who became the wife of the Sultan. But that was no great blessing in those days, because the Sultan, a restless soul, had the bad habit of keeping his wives only one night and having them killed the next day. But unlike the unfortunate predecessors, Scheherazade had the wit to save herself by beginning to tell a story that got the Sultan so engrossed, that he let her live until he could learn how the story ended. And so, for a thousand and one nights, she kept death at bay, until at last the Sultan realized that he loved her and kept her alive! In a real sense, our world is kept alive with the telling of the Christian story in word and deed, with prayer and the steady perseverance of our faith, until “nothing more than nothing” will amount to everything that really counts, to everything that God intends for all of God’s children! □

WHEN I SAY... "I AM A CHRISTIAN"

When I say... "I am a Christian" I'm not shouting "I am saved".
I'm whispering, I get lost!, that is why I chose this way."

When I say... "I am a Christian" I don't speak of this with pride.
I'm confessing that I stumble and need Someone to be my Guide.

When I say... "I am a Christian" I'm trying to be strong.
I'm Professing that I'm weak and pray for strength to carry on.

When I say... "I am a Christian" I'm not bragging of success.
I'm admitting I have failed and cannot ever pay the debt.

When I say... "I am a Christian" I'm not claiming to be perfect,
My flaws are too visible, but God believes I'm worth it.

When I say... "I am a Christian" I still feel the sting of pain.
I have my share of heartaches, Which is why I seek his name.

When I say... "I am a Christian" I do not wish to judge.
I have no authority. I only know I'm loved.

Author Unknown

REV. JIRAIR SOGOMIAN, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE AMAA RETIRES

The Board of Directors of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) announced the retirement of the Rev. Jirair M. Sogomian, its Executive Director since April, 2001.

Rev. Sogomian assumed his post at a critical time, following the sudden death of his eminent predecessor, the Rev. Movses B. Janbazian.

Rev. Sogomian's devotion to duty was coupled by his organizational and linguistic skills. He fulfilled the responsibilities of his office with Christian compassion, recognizing the impact of the AMAA's evangelical and charitable role among Armenians in 22 different countries, primarily in Armenia itself.

Founded in 1918, the AMAA is the international missionary arm of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America.

Prior to his executive directorship, Rev. Sogomian led a distinguished pastoral career of 34 years, serving in churches throughout the United States and, most recently, the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church of Havertown, PA.

Now at retirement, the Rev. Jirair and Mrs. Lorraine Sogomian eagerly await their return to Southern California to rejoin their children and grandchildren.

We wish them a happy and fulfilling retirement with all its well-deserved blessings.

The Board of Directors of the AMAA has appointed Mr. Andrew Torigian, the President of the Association, to also assume the responsibilities of the interim Executive Director.

"Christmas in October"

"Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these brethren, you did it for me."

Matt.25:40

The Armenia Summer Camp & Christmas Joy Packages Committee is dedicated to raise funds for these two AMAA projects. To achieve this goal, our members work year round. A Spring recital helps provide for the camps, and the "Christmas in October" Luncheon, accompanied by a silent auction helps fund Joy Packages. Sports equipment, arts and crafts supplies are purchased or accepted as donations. Annually funds are collected through an appeal in the AMAA NEWS for specific requests from Armenia for items such as sneakers, clothing and backpacks.

For Christmas 2002, AMAA in Armenia organized 67 Christmas programs of drama and music in 53 towns and villages throughout the homeland. These programs aim to bring holiday joy to thousands of our impoverished children and to teach them about the Christmas message of hope in God's love. 25,000 children (many of whom are orphaned) received gift packages after each presentation. These packages contain toiletries, stationary, a toy, candy and a children's Bible.

After the last few years' successful cam-



paigns, and encouraged by your cooperation, our committee is embarking on the same project for Christmas 2003. On October 2nd, at 11:30 AM the Committee will hold its Third Annual "Christmas in October" luncheon to provide for Christmas Joy Packages for our children in Armenia and Karabagh. The event will take place at Englewood Woman's Club, Englewood, NJ.

We would like to thank you for your generous support of these programs and the consistency with which you have given.

Please mark your calendars for the aforementioned luncheon to which you are cordially invited. If you are unable to be with us on October 2nd, you may wish to make a donation in lieu of gift packages, and send it to the AMAA. Your donation will bring a little cheer into the lives of Armenian orphans and needy children, and your act of love will help children of Armenia understand the meaning of Christmas.

For more information, call Louisa Janbazian at the AMAA Office 201-265-2607.□



I am unable to attend the "Christmas in October" event, but I would like to participate in the Armenia Summer Camp/Christmas Committee's fundraiser for **Christmas Joy Packages** and bring some cheer into the lives of thousands of orphans and needy children in Armenia, Georgia and Karabagh.

Enclosed please find my donation of US dollars _____.

Name _____

Address _____

(Make your checks to AMAA, earmarked for Christmas Joy Packages and mail to 31 W. Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652)



Evangelical Church of Armenia - Aintab

Two years ago, the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church Missions Committee, upon the recommendation of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), budgeted \$5,000 for the remodeling of an old two story building in Aintab, Armenia, which the AMAA had purchased a few years ago for the local church.

Progress has been made mostly with volunteer physical labor, and the two-story building was remodeled and is ready to be used as a small church.

The first floor will be used as a Sunday School, with separate hall and classroom. The second floor will be used as a church hall and offices. The Church hall is planned

to accommodate 200 parishioners.

Aintab is a village situated about 12 miles south of Yerevan. It has a population of several thousand, most of whom are unemployed. Most maintain their existence by growing produce in their backyards.

The congregation of the Evangelical Church of Armenia in Aintab was formed in 1991. The current pastor, Brother Hovig Frangulian took over its leadership in 1994.

The church had 53 baptized members, but due to economic crisis, many had emigrated seeking employment and the membership has dropped to half. Weekly Sunday Wworhsip service is attended by 35



people.

In addition to weekly Sunday worship services, church life includes weekday Bible studies for adults and weekly Sunday School services, attended by over 40 children.

Brother Dickran Haroutounian is the assistant of pastor Frangulian. Both live in Yerevan and commute to Aintab for ministry.

The church's Christian Education ministries include Sunday School for children, Youth Ministry and Young Adults group.

14 young people attend the youth group and 13 attend the young adult group. □

A Visit To The Javakh Region

Rev. Rene Leonian, the representative of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) in Armenia, recently visited Akhalkalak and spent three days with the Armenian Community of the region.

Akhalkalak is located in the southern part of Georgia in the region of Javakh. It borders the northern part of Armenia. There are over 100,000 Armenians living in the region. The social conditions of the people in Akhalkalak are very poor and very limited. They receive a few hours of electricity per day. Most of the houses in the village lack running water.

The Armenians in Akhalkalak feel great joy when people from Armenia or Diaspora visit and spend time with them. Rev. Leonian's visit was once again a testimony to the fact that the AMAA and the Armenian Evangelical Community have not forgotten and abandoned the Armenians in Akhalkalak and with their visits and encouragement they collaborate with the church activities in the Gumburdu, Sulta, Akhalkalak and Akhartzke villages, where there are regular church services, Sunday Schools, Bible Study groups and Vacation Bible Schools. These activities are supported by the

AMAA.

Rev. Leonian visited with the priest of the Armenian Apostolic Church and discussed with him the social affairs, spiritual life, the growth of Christian Education plans and specially ways to stop the spread of cults, such as the Jehovahs Witnesses. The priest highlighted the importance of the "Jehovahs Witnesses" book which was published by the AMAA, which explains clearly the negative impact of the cult on people and shows ways of staying away from it.

Rev. Leonian also met with the Director of Akhalkalak Hospital with whom he discussed possibilities of providing aid from the AMAA.

The Armenians of Akhalkalak have great desire to listen to God's word and put their trust in the faith of their forefathers. They appreciate all the spiritual and moral help they receive from the AMAA and state that without the help of the AMAA it



would almost be impossible to continue in their spiritual and social journey. □

AMAA Grants \$325,000 in Scholarship Aid

Mr. Robert Hekemian, Jr., of Saddle River, NJ, reported that the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) has awarded a total of \$115,000 in direct scholarship aid to 70 Armenian college and university students for the academic year 2003-2004. In addition, \$10,000 in scholarships were awarded to college students in Armenia and \$200,000 to various institutions of higher learning and charitable organizations for distribution as scholarship grants to needy and qualified Armenian university students in the Middle East, including Haigazian University.

Mr. Hekemian is the chairman of the AMAA Scholarship Committee, which allocates the awarding of the Association's scholarships in the form of grants to deserving students. Each applicant's documents are reviewed thoroughly by the eight-member committee, taking into account such factors as academic performance, financial need, character references and leadership potential. For the 2003-2004 academic year, the Committee reviewed a total of 80 applications.

Application for academic grants is open to all undergraduate students of Armenian extraction attending an accredited college or university on a full-time basis. Application forms are available each year beginning in January, upon a written request by

the applicant. The deadline for requesting Scholarship Application forms is April 15 and the closing date for applications is May 15 of each year. Once the applications are received, they are processed by the AMAA staff and given to the Scholarship Committee. After reviewing and discussing each application in detail, the Scholarship Committee considers, in light of how much scholarship money is available, which applicants merit financial aid and how much that aid should be.

Since its formation in the mid-1970's, the AMAA's Scholarship Program has provided over three million dollars in the form of grants and loans to more than 3,500 students in the United States and Canada.

This year, upon the recommendation of the Scholarship Committee, the amount of the grants was increased making it much more meaningful to meet the ever-increasing cost of higher education.

Funds for the AMAA's College Scholarship Program are provided from the income of endowment funds established by individuals and families concerned about the education of Armenian youth. There are currently about 70 such AMAA endowment funds, the major being the Hekemian Family Trust and the Stephen Philibosian Fund.

In November of last year (2002) \$100,00.00 was added to the AMAA Schol-

arship fund in memory of Jeffrey Kerbeykian, a young architect, in whose memory, both his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Edward Kerbeykian of Tenafly, NJ, and Mr. & Mrs. Robert S. Hekemian of Saddle River, NJ, long-time family friends, made significant donations to support the program.

Other AMAA funds whose income provided scholarships for this year's recipients are: John & Sona Abajian, John and Mary Abrahamian, Rev. Hovhannes Agnerian, Haigazoun & Angel Andonian, Dr. Robert Nerses Armen, Aynilian Family, Vahan and Grace Azadian, Rev. Antranig Bedikian, Tavit & Sirvart Bogosian, Rev. Dr. Giragos and Yeprouhie Chopourian, Giragos M. & Helen T. Churukian, Arthur Dadian, Drs. Nazareth & Ani Darakjian, Dr Haig Robert Darpinian and Berjouhie Timourian, Hagop & Esther Dohanian Family, Armine Ejdaharian/Bilezikjian, Dr Meguerditch Ejdaharian, Rev. S.K. & G.T. Emurian, Ani Etoyan, Flora & Diane Galoostian, Charles Mesrob Garabedian, Leon & Matilda Giridlian, Louise Googooian, Anne (Googooian) Halford, Angele Bedrossian Hancock, Khacher and Puzant Guzelimian, Martin Hatch Jr., Dr. Michael S. Hovenanian, Peter and Sara Hovenanian, Paul & Arousiag Iskiyan, Martha D. Jedian, George & Elizabeth Jerjisian, Karekin Kaboulian, Ohannes & Araxie Karamanoukian, Alice Odian Kasparian, Kevork H. and Sirvart Kassouny Kavouksorian, John G. Kazanjian, Moses Keshishian & Victoria Hadidian, Dr. John Keuhnelian, Lucy Kezlarian/Philipian, Rev. & Mrs. Dikran & Yester Koundakjian & Haroutune & Salihe Berejiklian, Araxie Kouyoumdjian Poladian, Hrant, Dolores and Roseanne Krikorian, Serge and Ann Krikorian, Prof. Lootfi Levonian, Yervant & Virginia Levonian, Samuel & Victoria Magzarian, Rahel & Osanna Makanian, Edward & Helen Mardigian, Albert, Henry & James Mouradian, Leon Mouradian, Murad & Yevkin Muradian, Raymond & Marie Nahigian, George & Alice Philibosian, Altoon & Sarah Saprichian, Dickran & Flora (cont'd on the next page)

Yes, I will support AMAA's Scholarship Program.

I will establish an Endowment Fund. Please send me details.

I will contribute \$_____ to this program.

Name _____

Address _____

(Please make your tax deductible checks payable to the AMAA Scholarship Program and mail to 31 W. Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652)

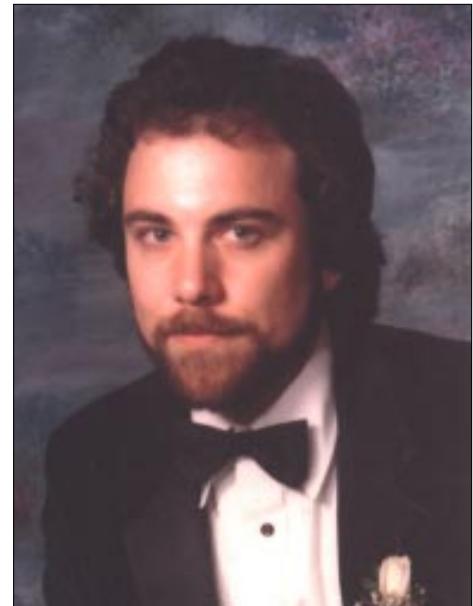
\$100,000 Scholarship Fund Established In Memory of Jeffrey Kerbeykian

The Armenian Missionary Association of America announced the creation of a \$100,000 Scholarship Fund in memory of Jeffrey Kerbeykian who, at the age of 46, suffered an untimely and tragic death on May 5, 2002. The fund is established by a joint contribution of \$100,000 by Mr. & Mrs. Edward Kerbeykian of Tenafly, NJ, parents of Jeffrey, and Mr. & Mrs. Robert S. Hekemian of Saddle River, NJ, long-time friends of the Kerbeykian family. Scholarships will be awarded to qualified Armenian students studying Architecture or Engineering.

Jeffrey Kerbeykian was a devoted family man and gifted architect who lived in Forest Hills, NY with his wife Sophie and their children Nicole, Brian and Talene. Jeffrey's great success on both a personal and professional level stemmed from his keen knowledge, his clear vision and aggressive goals. Upon graduation from Fort Lee High School in NJ, he enrolled in the Architectural Program at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), from which he received his Bachelor Degree in Science and Architecture. During his fourth year at RPI, as part of the one-year, on-the-job work program, Jeffrey worked for General Electric and was sent to Iran. There he consulted and worked with Gostaresh Mazkan, a local architectural and construction firm that built modular housing in Southern Iran.

While in Iran, Jeffrey met his wife Sophie Djanec and, in 1984, they were married and moved to Forest Hills, NY. Jeffrey's

flourishing architectural career began with the firm of Litchfield Grossfeld Architects in 1979 where he focused on the design of office, retail and low-income housing. After a few years, he went to work for William Hall Associates. In the late 1980s, Jeffrey joined the firm of Norman Rosenfeld Architects where he specialized in the design of medical and institutional buildings. Ultimately, in 1999, Jeffrey established the firm of Gertler Wente & Kerbeykian Architects. Among Jeffrey's most recent clients were New York Cornell Medical Center and Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. In October 2002, the Queens Dermatology Center, designed by Jeffrey, was awarded the Queens Chamber of Commerce Building Award for its excellence in Design and Construction. Since 1926, the Queens Chamber of Commerce has awarded this prestigious award in recognition of outstanding design and construction in the borough. In 2002, a plaque was displayed in this newly completed structure in honor of Jeffrey. In addition, for Jeffrey's excellent design of the Endoscopy Suite at New York Presbyterian Hospital, considered the foremost facility in the country, prominent recognition has been given to Jeffrey in this facility. Norman Rosenfeld, a fellow architect and Jeffrey's mentor, praised Jeffrey's exceptional talent, knowledge and professionalism and recognized Jeffrey as the problem solver among his fellow architects and oftentimes referred to him as the "Architect of Architects".



Jeffrey Kerbeykian

Jeffrey also devoted his time and talent to the Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs where, as a member, he served on the Parish Council and the Building and Long-Range Planning Committees. In addition, he acted as a consultant on the Clinic Planning Committee of Armenia Fund USA. However, Jeffrey's community involvement did not stop there. Upon moving to Forest Hills with his family in 2001, he was appointed to the Architectural Committee of the Forest Hills Gardens Corporation where his talents were quickly recognized and appreciated.

Jeffrey's dedication went well beyond his clients and profession. He was faithfully devoted to his family and community. He was a compassionate and loving husband, father, son and brother. His love for his family was constantly and undeniably evidenced by his amiable personality and his zeal for life.

Jeffrey is survived by his wife Sophie, his three children Nicole, Brian and Talene, his parents Edward and Shirlee and his brother Craig. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends and all who were privileged to know him.□

(cont'd from the previous page)

Sarkisian, Krikor & Anna Sermabeikian, Berjouhi Sherene, Diran Simpadian, Edward & Hovnan Tashian, Telfeyan Evangelical Fund, Ezras & Nellie Tellalian, Dr. Jirayr & Louise Tezel, Rev. Edward S. Tovmassian, and several small funds with incomes less than \$250.

Many of the scholarship recipients from the past have come forward to support this program. They have established endow-

ment funds of their own or in their modest way have supported this program.

The needs remain enormous and additional funds will be appreciated. With every dollar provided in support of this program, one more college student will have a chance to achieve his or her goal. We will urge our members and friends to remember this program and contribute to it. A coupon of contribution is provided on the previous page.□

Haigazian University Commencement 2003

In his first commencement as President of Haigazian University, the Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian conferred 33 Bachelors of Arts and Sciences, 44 Bachelor of Business Administration and Economics, 2 Masters of Arts degrees (one in Clinical Psychology and the second in School Education). Dr. Haidostian also conferred 7 honorary degrees to several graduates with high academic records.

After the invocation by Rev. Nishan Bakalian, Dr. Haidostian welcomed graduating students, friends and relatives, and asked immediate parents to stand up in recognition of their hard work and investment in their children's education, while over 1000 guests applauded this accomplishment.

In his commencement address, Dr. Haidostian highlighted this happy occasion entitled for celebration, calling it a moment of "pride to Lebanon and to Haigazian" because of the host of human treasures, brains and professionalism it instigates and produces.

The ceremony included a keynote address by guest speaker Dr. Haroutune Armenian, President of the American University of Armenia (AUA), who spoke highly on HU's academic achievements focusing on the necessity for HU to continue spreading knowledge among future generations.

Just before his speech, Dr. Armenian awarded Dr. Haidostian with the AUA honorary medal marking its 10th anniversary during the 43 commencement exercises that took place on July 3, 2003.

The program also included the addresses of the two valedictorians, Ali Abdel Sater, from the Faculty of Arts and Science, a Medical Lab graduate and Nanor Karageozian, from the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics, a Business graduate.

Following was the presentation of the diplomas, which were carried out, by the Dr. Arda Ekmeji, Dean of Arts and Sciences and Dr. Fadi Asrawi, Dean of Business Administration and Economics.

The Commencement Program ended with the benediction of Rev. Megerdich Karageozian, President of the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East. □



President Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian and the Faculty of Haigazian University.

Haigazian Women's Auxiliary of Los Angeles Donates \$20,000 for Scholarships

Members of the Haigazian University Women's Auxiliary of Los Angeles, CA, welcomed Haigazian's President, Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian during his brief stay for the Trustees meeting.

Dr. Haidostian assumed his leadership role in September 2002 and has been unflagging in his efforts to maintain and augment the University's high level of academics.

The urgent need for scholarships at Haigazian prompted the Auxiliary to earmark \$20,000 for that purpose. The Auxiliary hopes that others will also count Haigazian worthy of support.

The Armenian Evangelical community is

the responsible owner and manager of the University, where teachers, ministers, and leaders are prepared in cooperation with the Near East School of Theology. The University is also meant to serve a wide variety of students, who represent all religious groups. The academic freedom to which the University aspires is inspired by the liberating effect of the Christian faith. In order to help students explore their belief system and develop a consistent and informed personal theology, the University offers courses in religion and philosophy; it makes voluntary chapel services, public lectures, and retreats available for both students and faculty.



(l to r) Mrs. Julia Aharonian, Mrs. Joyce Stein, Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, Mrs. Grace Kurkjian and AMAA President, Mr. Andrew Torigian.

The Social Service Programs in Bourdj Hammoud, Lebanon

The Social Action Committee (SAC) enjoyed ministering to people of all ages and various needs this past year. Thanks to the funding of the Armenian Missionary Association of America and the Action Chrétienne en Orient, along with the support of local churches and Christian Endeavor groups, and by God's assistance, the Committee rendered its spiritual, social and educational services through personal and group work.

Children's Playground

40-50 children gather in the Social Center's premise every Saturday morning, from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. They actively participate in worship, Bible class, crafts, games, general knowledge contests and outings.

The children attending the playground activities face many challenges. The leaders help the children to think of ways to deal with trying situations.

The playground also makes it possible for the workers to build a relationship with the parents. Many mothers bring in social issues related to their family, marriage relationship, and financial situation and seek for guidance and consultation.

During the summer, the playground runs five days a week for six weeks. The children's number ranges from 80-120. The program includes worship, Bible lessons, crafts, Arabic, English and Math classes, games, and outings.

The Junior's Program

20-25 teenagers gather every Sunday afternoon for worship, Bible Study, games, outings, service projects and discussions of various Christian and social topics. They enjoy the presence of six volunteers from local CE groups who have built close relationships with them and support them in their growth and inquisitiveness.

The Women's Group

The idea in gathering the women together was to present to them a series of discussions on family and social issues related to their lives. However, it developed into weekly sessions of macramé handiwork, which in the end they will be able to sell to provide them a decent income for essential needs. A close, personal relationship is built with a number of those women through home visits and follow-ups.

The Study Room

This is another group that targets students who need assistance in their studies. Two teachers supervise 15-20 students, who stay at school in the afternoon and have a chance to do their homework.

Financial Contributions

Financial contributions are made to assist families and individuals of Armenian Evangelical churches. Old people living alone, or those who have children struggling with their own financial restrictions, receive a monthly allowance. Although it is a small amount, it provides bread for food or necessary fees to be paid.

Because of lack of an appropriate and affordable medical insur-



The Study Room.

ance scheme in Lebanon, the families and elderly struggle with paying the expenses of medicine, hospitalization, and other medical care. Similarly, meeting institutional care expenses is a burden for families. The SAC supports the elderly by participating in paying for the services of a number of institutions - the Old Age Home, the Zvartnotz Institute for Mentally Handicapped, and the Azounieh Sanatorium for the elderly.□

Trad School Reaches Out at Easter



This year, specifically at Easter, the Trad Armenian Evangelical School of Bourdj Hammoud, Lebanon, had something special for the parents of the students.

As some of the students come to school without having breakfast, without sandwiches and some bring only bread, the staff of the school decided to reach out to all of their students by preparing food boxes for them. They wrote letters to many individuals in their churches and around, asking help for this project. Most of them responded more generously than expected. Some sent food and many others sent money.

80 food boxes for each family of Trad School were prepared. The boxes contained food stuff items, such as sugar, rice, cracked wheat, lentil, beans, peas, pasta, cheese, jam, oil, milk, canned meat, chocolate, biscuit and candies. On April 15, the parents came and took their share. They were very thankful and glad for such a surprise Easter gift.□

AMAA BOOK SERVICE PROGRAM

PUBLICATIONS

□ □ □ □ □ (Armenian Hymnal), Beirut
 1989, No. 280b \$5.00

□ □ □ □ □ (Armenian Hymnal), Beirut
 1996, No. 280a \$10.00

□ □ □ (Welcome) - Hand crafted trivets of solid
 wood, No. 26a \$5.00, plus \$3.00 for shipping and handling,

□ □ □ □ □ (in Armenian) - Colorful
 Bible pictures on each page and Bible verses for each
 day. No. 251 . \$10.00 plus \$2.00 for shipping and handling.

2

□  □ - Brahms, Schubert, Gomidas, Bagdasarian, Milhaud, Reger - by Gor Hovhannisyan, Viola and Gary Kirkpatrick, Piano. Recorded live on May 5, 2002 during a benefit recital sponsored by the AMAA's Armenia Summer Camp and Christmas Committee. #301 \$15.00

... Armenian Christian and Popular songs by the youth choir "Yerk Yerkots" (Song of Songs) of the AMAA-Armenia. #302 \$15.00

□ □□ □ □□□ □□ - North American Concert Tour 2000 (CD), Musical Ensemble of 6 talented children - ages 9-14 (violins, cello, flute & Piano) - Armenian and international classical music, No. 293 \$10.00

□□ □□□□□ □□ □□□ □□□ , (CD) Hovannes Darbinian
No. 300 \$15.00

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ ■ - Samuel Yervinian (violin) and Armen Aharonian (Piano) (CD) No. 298 \$15.00

- Stepan Sarafian (Violin) and Armen Aharonian (Piano), (CD), No. 299 \$15.00

□ □ □□ □ □□□ □ □□□ □□ (Rejoice in the Lord)
#3 (in Armenian - CD), No. 208d \$15.00

(tape), Sacred Music Chorale, conducted by Dr. John Merriam, No. 183 \$10.00

1

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| □ | □ | □ |
| □ □ □ | □ □□ □ | (hc - extra large) No. 13k, \$15.00 |
| □ □ | □ □□ □ | □ □ □ □ (hc |
| green - extra large) No. 13n, | | \$20.00 |
| □ □ | □ □ □□ □ | (The Four Gospels - |
| Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) No. 195, | | \$20.00 |
| □ □ □ □ | □ (Children's Bible) No. 155b | \$10.00 |
| □ □ □□ □ | □ □ □ □ □ (Soft- | |
| Cover, No. 13l | | \$10.00 |

If you are interested to receive any one of the following books from the AMAA's Book Service Program, please fill out the form below, and we will be glad to mail them to you free of charge if you cover the shipping and handling charges.

□□□□□ by A. A. Bedikian, 128 pp, pb, No. 8

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□□□□□, by G. H. Chopourian, 170 pp, hc, No. 50

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Մեր Քրիստոնէկական Առաքելութիւնը

Վեր. Ռընէ Լեւոնեան*

Մեր Տէր Աստուծոյ՝ Յիսուս Քրիստոսի եկեղեցին ընդհանրական է, որու առաքելութեան գլխաւոր նպատակն է մարդոց հոգիներու փրկութիւնը՝ Յիսուս Քրիստոսի նկատմամբ ունեցած իրենց հաւատքին շնորհիւ: Այս նպատակին հասնելու միջոցներն են Աւետարանի քարոզութիւն, Աստուածաշունչի սերտեղութիւն, Քրիստոնէկական հոգեւոր եւ բարոյական արժէքներու իրավործում, եկեղեցի անդամներու միասնականութեան ամրապնդում եւ քրիստոնեայ այլ եկեղեցիներու հետ եղայրական յարաբերութիւններու զարգացում:

Ամէն մէկ եկեղեցի, նախ եւ առաջ, Աստուծոյ ընտանիքն է. Աստուած եկեղեցիին Հայրն է, իսկ հաւատացեալները հոգեւոր եղայրներ եւ քոյրեր են: Առաջին պատուիրանը, որ առուեցաւ մարդոց՝ «Սիրէ՛ Տէրը, քու Աստուածդ՝ ամբողջ սիրառվդ, ամբողջ անձովդ, ամբողջ միտքովդ եւ ամբողջ զօրութեամբդ» (Մարկ. 12. 30), կը բացայատէ Քրիստոնէկական եկեղեցիի առաքելութեան գլխաւոր նպատակը՝ այսինքն Աստուծոյ հետ փոխադարձ յարաբերութիւն՝ աղօթքի, Աստուծոյ փառաբանութեան եւ Աստուծոյ Խօսքին՝ Աստուածաշունչի սերտողութեան միջոցով:

Աղօթքը այնքան կարեւոր է եկեղեցւոյ կեանքին մէջ, որ նոյնիսկ Յիսուս Քրիստոս՝ Աստուած եւ Աստուծոյ Որդի ըլլալով, ամէն առաւօտ մի քանի ժամ կ'անցընէր աղօթքի մէջ: Կարեւոր եւ պատասխանատու որոշումներ առնելի առաջ՝ ինչպէս, օրինակ 12 առաքեալներու ընտրութիւնը, կամ ձերբակալուելի ետք խաչը բարձրանալը, Ան ամբողջ գիշերը աղօթեց:

Աստուծոյ փառաբանումը եկեղեցիի կեանքին մէջ եւս կարեւոր է: Աստուածաշունչը կ'ըսէ, որ Աստուած կը փառաւորէ Զինք փառաւորողները: Փառաբանութեան ժամանակ եկեղեցին կը զգայ Աստուծոյ ներկայութիւնը իր մէջ: Մենք գիտենք, որ բոլոր անոնք, որոնք ի սրտէ կը փառաբանեն զ Աստուած, իրենց անձնական, ընտանեկան եւ հոգեւոր կեանքին մէջ ունին Աստուածային խաղաղութիւն:

Բացի աղօթքէն եւ փառաբանութենէն, Աստուածաշունչի սերտողութիւնը եկեղեցիի կեանքին մէջ պէտք է ըլլայ առաջնահերթ: Երբ սատանան կը փորձէր Յիսուսը, Ան կը պատասխանէր Աստուածաշունչի խօսքերով:- «Գրուած է...»: Երբ սատանան մեզ կը

գայթակղեցնէ կամ կը վախնցնէ՝ նշելով մեզի՝ մեր թերութիւնները, Աստուծոյ Խօսքին գիտակցութիւնը կ'օգնէ մեզի յաղթելու մեր ամենադժուարին պայմանները:

Աստուածաշունչի սերտողութիւնը կ'օգնէ մարդուն՝ ճանչնալ Աստուծոյ կամքը իր կեանքին մէջ եւ պատրաստուելու այն ծառայութեան, որու համար Աստուած կանչած է զինք:

Եկեղեցիներու կողմէ ստեղծուած քրիստոնէկական կազմակերպութիւնները, քրիստոնէկական եկեղեցիներու բարեգործական կամ աւետարանական թեւերն են: Անոնց բոլոր գործողութիւնները հիմնուած են Աստուածաշունչին վրայ, եւ անոնց ծառայութիւնը կը բիսի Աստուծոյ եւ մարդկութեանց նկատմամբ իրենց ունեցած սէրէն: Անոնք կ'օգտագործեն Աստուծոյ կողմէ տրուած բոլոր հնարաւորութիւնները եւ հոգալու համար մարդոց առաջնահերթ կարիքները, անոնք կը հիմնեն կիրակնօրեայ դպրոցներ, կը կառուցանեն եկեղեցիներ, կ'օգնեն հիւանդներուն եւ անկարներուն, կ'օգնեն որբեւայրի եւ աղքատ ընտանիքներուն:

Քրիստոնէան՝ որպէս Աստուծոյ զաւակ, կոչուած է անձնական յարաբերութեան՝ Հայր Աստուծոյ հետ եւ եղայրական յարաբերութեան՝ եկեղեցիի անդամներուն, անոնց ընտանիքներուն, իրենց ընկերներուն, բարեկամներուն եւ գործակիցներուն հետ: Քրիստոնէան Աստուծոյ Խօսքը կը կիսէ նաեւ անձանօթ մարդոց հետ՝ անոնց վկայելով քրիստոնէկական կեանքի առաւելութիւնը եւ այն՝ ինչ որ Աստուած ըրած է իր կեանքին մէջ: Այս ձեռով քրիստոնէան, որպէս եկեղեցւոյ անդամ, կ'աջակցի եկեղեցիի հոգեւոր աճումին՝ ընդունելով զայն որպէս մէկ մարմին:

Այսպէսով, եկեղեցին Աստուծոյ ընտանիքն է: Եկեղեցիի ամէն մէկ անդամ՝ Աստուծոյ զաւակը, որուն շնորհուած է յաւիտենական կեանք Յիսուս Քրիստոսի նկատմամբ ունեցած հաւատքին շնորհիւ: □



*Վեր. Ռընէ Լեւոնեան Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան Հայաստանի ներկայացուցիչն է:

Գոգիոնիոյ Հայ Աւետարանական Մանկապարտէզի Ամավերջի Հանդէսը

Անդա Քիւփելեան

Գրասեղանիս առջեւ նստած, ամէն առաւօտ երք կը դիտեմ ընդառակ բակին մէջ մեր մանկապարտէզի մեղուներու բզբիւնը, անոնց ամմեղ ու խորհրդաւոր, ժպտագին դէմքերը, հայու փայլուն կայտառ աշուկները, անհոգ խաղերը, կը մտածեմ թէ մեր ժողովուրդի «Հրաշալի Յարուրինը» եւ գոյատեւումը կախեալ է այս մանուկներէն եւ անոնց ետին կեցած անձուրաց ուսուցիչներու նուիրումէն:

Յունիս 5, 2003ին տեղի ունեցաւ Գոգիոնիոյ Հայ Աւետարանական Մանկապարտէզի ամավերջի հանդէսը եւ ծաղիկ դասարանի վկայականներու բաշխումը:

Սրահին նախամուտի պատերը զարդարուած են ամէն մէկ աշակերտի նկարով եւ տարեկան ձեռային աշխատանքի նմոյցներով, որոնց ետին կը ցոլայ քանիուած անխոնց եւ բժանուիր աշխատանքը:

Երգեհոնի նուագակցուրեամբ մեր գունագեղ ծաղկեփունջի 27 ծաղիկները բեմ կը բարձրանան ու զոյգ ոգերգներու յոտնկայս ունկնդրուրեամբ կը սկսի նոխ յայտագիրը:

Մեր մանուկներու բորսվախօս, ամօրխած, երբեմն լաւագին ու երբեմն կայտառ, բունդ եւ համարձակ հոգեւոր, հայրենասիրական եւ ազգային երգերը, արտասանուրիները, տրամախօսուրիները, մեր նազանոյշ աղջկներու կշոյքային ու «հեղանիկուն», ու տղոց խրոխտ ու տիրական հայկական պարերը ծափեր կը խլեն ու մեզ կրկնակի կ'ոգեւորեն եւ կ'ուրախացնեն:

Մանկապարտիզանուի բամբիշ Սալի Զոլաքեան, իր տարեկան խօսքը կ'ուղղէ ծնողներուն՝ մանուկնեն անձնաւորուրեան եւ նկարագիրի կերտման, եւ անոր անումին մասին: Շնորհակալուրին կը յայտնէ Եկեղեցւոյ հովիւնին, վարչուրեան եւ պաշտօնուրեան, անոնց սիրալիք գործակցուրեան համար: Մանաւոր շնորհակալուրին ակնարոյժ Տօֆք. Վաչէ Տէր կարապետեանին, որ սիրայօժար ամէն տարի կը կատարէ մեր մանուկներուն աչքի բնեուրինը:

Ապա բեմ կը երաւիրէ Եկեղեցւոյ Հովիւնի Վեր. Վիգէն Զոլաքեանը, եւ վարչուրեան Ատենապետ՝ Պրն. Զաւէն Թորքարլեանը վկայականներու բաշխման համար: Մեր այս տարուան հունձքը 6 երեխաներ են: Պրն. Ատենապետը յուզուած, յիշելով այս բեմէն իր առած առաջին վկայականը, կ'ոգեկոյէ անցեալի բոլոր նուիրեալ մանկապարտիզանուի իները, շնորհակալուրին կը յայտնէ եւ կը շնորհաւորէ մեր եզակի մանկապարտիզանուին բամբիշ Սալի Զոլաքեանը եւ իրենց օգնական ուսուցչունիները՝ Տիկ. Աննա Սփրիկեանը եւ Տիկ. Կարինէ Դաւիթեանը, որոնք հոգեմաշօրէն կը պեղեն մեր մանուկներուն հոգիները եւ կը դարբնեն անոնց նկարագիրները: Նաև շնորհակալուրին կը յայտնէ բոլոր պաշտօնէնուրեան՝ որ սիրալիք գործակցուրեամբ կը բաշխէ:

Եկեղեցւոյ Տիկնանց Մարմնի կողմէ Պատկերագարդ Աստուածաշունչի 365 պատմուրիներով Աստուածաշունչ նուէր կը արուին շրջանաւարտներուն, ինչպէս նաև ծաղկեկողովներ պաշտօնէնուրեան:



Վերապատուելին օրինութեան աղօք քով վերջ կը գտնէ հանդիսուրինը:

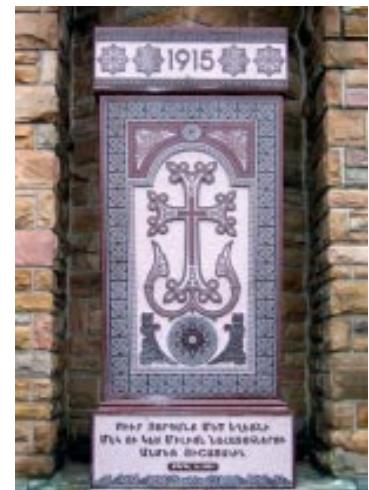
Փառք կուտանք Աստուծոյ այն բոլորին համար, որոնք նեցուկ կը կենան Հայ Աւետարանական Մանկապարտէզի գործին: Շնորհակալ ենք Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանական Ընկերակցուրեան, որ տարիներէ ի վեր նիւթական օժանդակուրին կը բերէ հայ մանուկին դաստիարակուրեան համար: Բոլորին վարձքը կատար:

Մոնթրէալի Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցւոյ Խաչքարի Բացում

Չորեկշաբթի, 23 Ապրիլ 2003-ին, մեծ թիւնով հայրդիներու ներկայուրեան, տեղի ունեցաւ 24 Ապրիլ 1915-ի Մեծ Եղեննի յիշատակուրինը, ինչպէս նաև նոյն առիքով Մոնթրէալի Հայ Աւետարանական Մայր Եկեղեցւոյ շրջարակ ըգեստ կը գետենուած խաչքարի բացումը:

Յաւուր պատշաճի խօսքը կատարելէ ետք, եկեղեցիի հովիքը՝ Վեր. Մհեր Խաչիկեան երաւիրեց խաչքարի նուիրեանը Եկեղեցւոյ շրջարակ Տիկին Տիկ Աննա Սփրիկեանը եւ Տիկ. Կարինէ Դաւիթեանը, որոնք հոգեմաշօրէն կը պեղեն մեր մանուկներուն հոգիները եւ կը դարբնեն անոնց նկարագիրները: Նաև շնորհակալուրին կը յայտնէ բոլոր պաշտօնէնուրեան՝ որ սիրալիք գործակցուրեամբ կը բաշխէ:

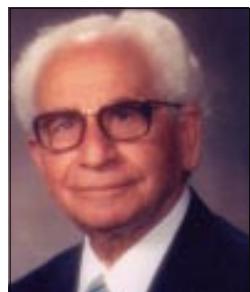
Զամգերու ողաճներով եւ «Տէ՛ր Ողորմեա» շարականի երգեցողուրեամբ, զետեղուեցաւ ծաղկեպսակ մը նորակերտ խաչքարին առջեւ եւ, ապա, հովիքին աղօք քէն ետք ներկաները ուղղուեցան Եկեղեցի՝ օրուան յատուկ պաշտամունքի համար, որմէ ետք, եկեղեցւոյ ներքնասարակին մէջ տեղի ունեցաւ յաւուր պատշաճի հիւրասիրուրին:



OBITUARIES

Rev. Assadour A. Sadakian

My grandfather, Rev. Assadour Avedis Sadakian, was born in Killis in 1907, to Avedis Sadakian and Vartoohi Kebabjian. He was eldest of his two sisters, Lydia and Liza. He grew up in a very spiritual family. Although his father was a shoe repairman, he would preach at the church when needed.



Growing up in a family that encouraged education, my grandpa finished at the top of all his classes. In 1937, he graduated from the American University of Beirut, majoring in Religion and Philosophy. Concurrently, he finished his seminary studies from Near East School of Theology. Two years later, he was the pastor and principal of Nor Marash School. At the same time, he took over the Christian Social Center as principal.

In the fall of 1941, on November 26, my grandpa got married to Rev. Hagop Shnorhokian's middle and beautiful daughter, Angele. God blessed them with five children; Avedis, Rosalie, Grace, Jacqueline, and Hagop.

A few years later, he was invited to Kessab's Armenian Evangelical Church as pastor, where he served as principal at the same time. There, in the white, half-built Kessab church, he was ordained in the presence of five ordained ministers, and Orthodox and Catholic priests.

In 1955, he accepted an invitation to the Aleppo Martyr's church. There he served 18 years. Meanwhile, the first building for the Martyr's church was built with the hard work of Dr. Harootyoon Nazarian, Mr. Sarkis Balabanian, and my grandpa. During these years he also was the chairman for the Old Age Home committee, the Executive Chairman at the Jinishian Memorial Program where he oversaw housing, monetary and health issues for the poor and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Evangelical Armenian community. My grandfather also served as a judge in Syria's Armenian community divorce court.

In 1973 he moved to Beirut, Lebanon to be with his three daughters. Eventually, after a couple of years, he moved to America with his entire family.

Grandfather lived through 96 happy and healthy years, and 62 years of marriage. He joined his heavenly father on Tuesday, July 8th at 3:47 am with all his children at his hospital bedside.□

Hrag Kalebjian

Antranig Cholakian

Antranig Cholakian was born in Aleppo in 1925 to Robert and Mayreni Cholakian, an Armenian Evangelical family from Zeitun. He grew up with three brothers and a sister, attending Bethel Armenian Evangelical School and Aleppo College, the latter of which he left after one year to begin working as a photographer. He married Giselle Mouradian in 1958, and the couple were blessed with three daughters, Rima, Taline and Sandra.



The family moved to Beirut in 1967, and Antranig entered the business world, though he remained an artist at heart. The family became active members of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Ashrafieh. He served often as church trustee, as well as member of the councils of the Gertmenian and Trad Armenian Evangelical Schools. But the area of service that most spoke to his heart was the Kchag conference Center, on whose board he served from the beginning. After the center was returned to the Armenian Evangelical Union a year ago, he enthusiastically joined the ad hoc committee for rebuilding the center, and had great hopes that once again Kchag would be a place of refreshment and spiritual renewal for families and church groups.

Antranig was known by all to be a friendly, warm-hearted, modest and hard-working person, who turned his shop into a meeting-point, offering hospitality and pleasant conversation. His caring and consideration towards his family was complemented by his analytical mind and his enjoyment of challenging problems. He instilled a love for service among his family, and practiced this principle throughout his life, until his sudden death at his workplace on June 19, 2003.

He is survived by his wife, daughters, son-in-law and two grandchildren, and his death is mourned by them, as well as by his brothers and extended family. □

Ophelia Avazian

Born Ophelia Patmagarian on June 5, 1912 in Tabriz, Iran, our beloved "Grandma Ophie" passed away peacefully on July 3, 2003. She immigrated to the United States in 1948 with her beloved husband, Mirdad, who predeceased her in 1966.

Ophelia is survived by her three sons and daughters-in-law, Carl and Ildi, Eric and Linda,

and Arthur and Lisa; eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the AMAA's Orphan/Child Care Fund of Armenia.□

Haig Newman Boghosian

Haig Boghosian, son of Hagop and Aznive Boghosian, was born in Fowler, CA. He attended Fowler schools excelling in basketball and tennis in high school. Later, he attended Fresno State College (FSC), apprenticing at a mortuary as an assistant. His family was horrified at the thought and was pleased when he was hired by Zellerbach Paper Co. on a part-time basis.



While at FSC, he met his future wife, Anne; both attended the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church and were active in youth activities. Haig held many offices in the church.

When World War II broke out, he entered the service in July, 1942. Wedding plans were set aside as Haig was inducted at the Presidio in Monterey. Eventually he was sent to Camp Davis in South Carolina for Officers' Training School. When he returned home as a Second Lieutenant, Anne and Haig were married on April 20, 1943. He served with the 87th Division in the Battle for Metz and the Battle of Bulge. He received two purple hearts.

When the war ended, Haig and Anne established their home in Fresno. Their son, Stan, was born in May, 1947. Zellerbach Paper Co. rehired him as a salesman, and he was gradually promoted from sales to management in Fresno, Phoenix, L.A. and Executive Headquarters in San Francisco. He was highly respected as a knowledgeable consultant.

Haig retired in 1975 and with his wife moved to Huntington Beach, where they became active members of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. Through the years, his interests included tennis, fishing and hunting. He also became an active consultant in supplies to the agricultural industry, and helped develop some new products. His greatest pride and joy was his grandson, Gabriel, who is now 16 years old. He remained in relatively good health until he had heart bypass and aortic valve replacement surgery 8 years ago. Haig passed away on July 12, 2003. He is survived by his wife, Anne; daughter, Louise Glenning Jack; son, Stanley of Berkeley; sister Betty and nieces and nephews.

Memorial services were held on Friday July

OBITUARIES

8, 2003 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Newport beach CA. In lieu of flowers the family has requested that donations be made to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, or Hoag Hospital Heart Institute, or AMAA.□

Berjouhi Darakdjian

Berjouhi came to the United States in the late summer of 1966 to attend Tennessee Temple Schools in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where she would pursue a degree in education to become a teacher. In 1969, she graduated with a B.S. degree in education.

In 1972 Berjouhi met her husband-to-be, Yervant Darakdjian, who had written her after being introduced by her cousin, Rev. Bernard Geukgeuzian. On Saturday, July 29, 1972, they married in a beautiful ceremony at Northside Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC. An article was written about them in the Charlotte News entitled, "Courtship-Long Distance Style" in which their non-conventional engagement here in the US caught the attention of many.

After the wedding they left for White Plains, NY, where they resided with Yervant's elderly mother, with whom they were like mother and daughter. For many years they owned and operated a store in Hackensack, New Jersey. To Berjouhi and Yervant was born a beautiful, bouncing baby boy, whom they named Haroutiun. Berjouhi thrilled to see her son grow and excel in his endeavors. Her desire to see him complete his college degree in psychology was fulfilled shortly before her death, which came after an illness with myeloma that lasted a mere six months.

Prior to her illness and after the sale of their business, Berjouhi worked as a pre-school supervisor where she was loved and fondly called, "Miss Betty." She often would relate a story about the children, smiling with joy because teaching was her calling in life.

Berjouhi passed from this life to her heavenly home to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Friday, June 20, 2003. She had been a loving, devoted wife to Yervant, a dedicated and inspiring mother to Harout, a caring and attentive daughter, sister, and aunt in her family, and a born-again Christian through her salvation by faith in Christ.

We thank God for making her a part of our lives. Her dedication and devotion to her faith in God throughout the years, allows us to believe that the Lord has prepared a chair for her in heaven that is only fit for a queen.

Her husband so beautifully wrote to her brother Vahe, recently, 9she was like a delightfully structured plant on which you would notice an odoriferous flower. Her spirit was impressive and your felt proud to talk with her.

Funeral Services were held at the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus and the donations in lieu of Flowers were made to The church and to the AMAA.□

Ephronia Karakashian

Ephronia (Shnorhokian) Karakashian of Jamaica Plain died on July 2. She was the wife of the late Karakin Karakashian, sister of Annali Demirjian and Rev. Manasehi Shnorhokian. She also leaves many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at First Armenian Church, 380 Concord Ave., Belmont, Saturday, July 5. Interment was at Woodbrook Cemetery, Woburn.

Ephronia was a teacher for 40 years before she came to the United States. She married Karakin Karakashian in 1967 and they enjoyed more than 10 years of marriage. She was always generous to those in need especially through missionary work. The last seven years of her life she resided at the Armenian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Jamaica Plain, Mass.□

Marie Tevonian

Marie Tevonian was born in 1905 in Ankara, Turkey. She was the middle child of 5 children. Her childhood was charmed, until it was shattered in 1915 by the Armenian Genocide. After going through many hardships and the imprisonment of her father, the family moved to the safety of Istanbul for a few years of "normal life", where Mary attended the best school and was the top of her class. In 1922, the renewed nationalism in Turkey forced them to leave the country on the last boat to America. They arrived in November, full of hope and anticipation, and unbelievably their visas were abruptly and definitely denied and they were sent to Ellis Island. Fortunately her acceptance to Barnard College got her released after one month. She graduated in 1925. She was refused a job by the placement office for possible work with a "Get a job with your own people" response. Set adrift and almost independent, she took art courses at Art Students' League and got a job as a commercial artist.

Marie was married to Sarkis Tevonian in 1935. She continued painting even after having her daughter, Stephanie. In the 1950's she stopped painting and started summer work for Music Inn in the Berkshires. She retired from this job after working for 11 years and became

a College Assistant in the City College Library in the Periodical Room for 21 years.

In the late 1970's her husband became an invalid and bedridden. After patiently caring for him, he passed away in 1979, and she opened her home in 1981 to her sick brother, John. For six long years, she nurtured him under extremely difficult circumstances. When he died, she was once again a free woman but only in her very self since her body was now tired and vulnerable. Yet, from that time until just 2 weeks from her passing, she relished her independence and true freedom and created and nurtured a new life for herself. Marie became ill shortly before her 97th birthday on May 23rd and passed away on June 3, 2002 in White Plains, NY. Funeral for Mary took place on June 7, 2002, at Kansico Cemetery, Valhalla, NY. □

The AMAA Board of Directors and staff wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the following deceased friends whose names were submitted to us for publication in the AMAA News.

- * **Avedian, Lili**
Kingsburg, CA
- * **Avedisian, Agnes**
Rancho, CA
- * **Baronian, Leo**
Coventry, RI
- * **Blacquier, Veronica Aslanian**
Carlisle, MA
- * **Boyajian, Jeannette**
Gulessarian, Shake
Toronto, Canada
- * **Gurlekian, Berge**
California
- Hadidian, Arpine**
Bakersfield, CA
- Haig, Alice**
Bloomfield Hills, MI
- * **Kupeyan, Alice**
Montreal, Canada
- * **Mayian, Violet**
Escondito, CA
- * **Megridichian, Megridich**
Cranston, RI
- * **Mihranian, Sarkis**
Loudenville, NY
- * **Najarian, Pilo**
Miami, FL
- * **Petrelli, Tedi Suzanne**
- * **Sevey, Henry, James, Jr.**
- * **Shahnazarian, Harold**
Westfield, NJ
- * **Stepanian, Asdghig**
- * **Zakarian, Edward**
Hackensack, NJ

* Memorials were designated for AMAA.

OFFICIAL CALL TO THE 84th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ARMENIAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

The Eighty Fourth Annual Meeting of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc. (AMAA), will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2003, at 9:30 a.m. at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal, 123 Boulevard des Prairies, Laval, Quebec, Canada. All members of the AMAA are invited to attend the meeting to:

- I. Consider and approve the reports of the Officers, Committees, Chapters, and Affiliated boards of the Association for fiscal 2002-2003;
- II. Consider and approve the financial reports for fiscal 2002-2003;
- III. Announce the results of the elected eight Board members to replace those whose terms have expired;
- IV. Elect four members to the Nominating Committee;
- V. Elect an Auditor;
- VI. Consider and act upon any other business that may legitimately come before the membership.

PROGRAM OF THE 84th ANNUAL MEETING ACTIVITIES

Thursday, October 16

9:30 a.m. Armenian Evangelical World Council Meeting

Friday, October 17

9:30 a.m. Missions Conference - Reports from the Fields

7:30 p.m. Board of Directors' Meeting

Saturday, October 19

9:30 a.m. 84th Annual Meeting

2:00 p.m. Board of Directors' Meeting

7:30 p.m. Shoghig Choir Concert

Sunday, October 20

11:00 a.m. 84th Annual Meeting Worship Service.

As members of the AMAA world-wide family, we look forward to this annual gathering to renew our ties of fellowship as Armenian Evangelical churches and communities, and to strengthen our common mission around the world. With joy we eagerly anticipate your presence and participation.

Armenian Missionary Association of America

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Paramus, NJ 07652

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